

(2) Develops and monitors plans, policies and programs designed to promote equal employment opportunity for RUS personnel under title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 621-634); the Equal Employment Opportunity Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. 2000e *et seq.*); section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; pertinent provisions of the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. 1101 *et seq.*); and applicable rules, regulations and other equal employment, nondiscrimination statutes.

§ 1700.3 Office of the Deputy Administrator—Program Operations.

The Deputy Administrator—Program Operations directs and coordinates the electric, telephone and rural economic development programs, technical services, and borrower accounting activities; reviews Agency policies in these areas and, as necessary, implement changes; and participates with the Administrator and other officials in planning and formulating the programs and activities of the Agency.

§ 1700.4 Rural electric program.

(a) The Assistant Administrator—Electric directs and coordinates the rural electrification program of the Agency, participating with the Administrator and Deputy Administrator—Program Operations and others in planning and formulating the programs and activities of the Agency.

(b) *Regional Offices.* (1) The two regional offices are the primary points of contact between RUS and electric distribution system borrowers. Each office administers the rural electric program for an assigned geographical area with assistance of field representatives located in areas assigned to them. The regional offices are composed of the following states and territories:

(i) *Northern Region.* Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin,

Wyoming, and present and former Pacific Trust Territories; and

(ii) *Southern Region.* Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and the Virgin Islands.

(2) The regional offices perform the following functions with respect to loan feasibility and security and accomplishment of the purposes of the RE Act:

(i) Administer the rural electrification program for distribution borrowers in the region, serving as the single point of contact for distribution borrowers;

(ii) Provide guidance to borrowers on Agency loan policies and procedures, and receives, evaluates, and processes insured and guaranteed loan applications and other requests for financing assistance;

(iii) If delegated the authority by the Administrator, Regional Directors may approve certain loans, lien accommodations and other actions;

(iv) Assure that distribution and transmission systems and facilities are designed and constructed in accordance with the terms of the loan and proper engineering practices and specifications;

(v) Maintain oversight of borrower rate actions;

(vi) Provide guidance to borrowers on supplemental power resources; load and energy management; and the environmental aspect of the design, construction and operation of their systems;

(vii) Maintain necessary oversight of borrowers' financial management and technical operations and practices to assure the security of the government's loans. Institute operations and management studies or other forms of corrective action as necessary;

(viii) Works to ensure accountability of loan and other financial transactions; and

(ix) Supplements efforts of the Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Staff to ensure borrower compliance with civil rights requirements.

(c) *Power Supply Division.* The Division performs the following functions:

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(1) Administers rural electrification program responsibilities that relate to power supply borrowers, and serves as the primary point of contact between RUS and all such borrowers;

(2) Receives, evaluates, and processes insured and guaranteed loan applications and other requests for financial assistance from power supply borrowers;

(3) Develops and administers engineering and construction functions related to planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance for power supply borrowers;

(4) Maintains a continuing financial and management overview of power supply borrowers to ensure that their operations are consistent with sound fiscal policies and procedures, loan security, and with RUS loan contracts, mortgages and regulatory requirements. Initiates operations and management studies or other forms of corrective action as necessary;

(5) Provide guidance to borrowers on supplemental power resources; load and energy management; and the environmental aspects of the design, construction and operations of their systems;

(6) Works to ensure accountability of loan and other financial transactions; and

(7) Supplements efforts of the Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights Staff to ensure borrower compliance with civil rights requirements.

(d) *Electric Staff Division.* This division administers certain engineering and operating activities relating to the rural electric program. The division:

(1) Is responsible for engineering aspects of RUS's standards, specifications and other requirements with respect to design, construction, and technical operation and maintenance of power-plant, distribution, and transmission systems and facilities, including load management, energy conservation and communications;

(2) Develops engineering practices, policies, standards, and guidelines for the Agency relating to electric borrowers' systems; conducts analysis and provides guidance on matters relating to fuels for electric generating stations; analyzes the effects of environmental laws and regulations on RUS-financed electric systems; and develops

related policies and procedures for the Agency;

(3) Develops criteria, procedures and analyses for improvement of the operating performance of electric borrowers;

(4) Develops procedures, criteria and techniques for forecasting borrowers' power requirements; and develops and maintains expertise in matters relating to retail and wholesale rates;

(5) Develops policies and procedures for adherence to environmental laws and regulations, and reviews borrowers' environmental studies;

(6) Maintains and publishes a continuing updated list of materials compatible with current RUS standards;

(7) From time to time provides consultation with borrowers regarding engineering matters;

(8) Provides assistance to the other electric offices and, as appropriate, to borrowers; and

(9) Maintains liaison with other Government agencies, utilities, industry officials and professional organizations on the above matters.

§ 1700.5 Rural telephone program.

(a) The Assistant Administrator—Telephone directs and coordinates the rural telephone program of the Agency, participating with the Administrator and Deputy Administrator—Program Operations and other officials in planning and formulating the programs and activities of the Agency.

(b) *Regional Offices.* (1) The two regional offices are the primary points of contact between RUS and all telephone system borrowers. Each office administers the rural telephone program for an assigned geographical area with assistance of field representatives located in areas assigned to them.

(2) The regional offices are composed of the following states and territories:

(i) *Eastern Region.* Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Virgin Islands, West Virginia, and Wisconsin; and